

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENDING 01599 010418Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-06

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01

SAJ-01 /105 W

----- 109803

R 301410Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2679

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LENINGRAD 1599

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PINT, UR

SUBJ: LENINGRAD GAS SHORTAGE

REF: LENINGRAD 1546

1. SUMMARY: LENINGRAD GAS SHORTAGE STILL EVIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. NON-DIPLOMATIC LENINGRAD DRIVERS ARE STILL HAVING DIFFICULTY OBTAINING GASOLINE. A-95 OCTANE IS AVAILABLE BUT APPARENTLY ONLY FOR DIPLOMATIC VEHICLES. LINES OF WAITING CARS ARE SHORTER THAN A WEEK AGO BUT THIS MAY IN PART REFLECT DECISION ON PART OF SOME NOT TO BOTHER. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT SOME KIND OF RATIONING SYSTEM HAS BEEN INSTITUTED SINCE THOSE SERVICED SEEM TO DISPLAY PERMIT OF SOME KIND. A THRIVING TRAFFIC IN JERRICANS OF GASOLINE HAS ALSO DEVELOPED WITH PEOPLE ARRIVING ON FOOT AND OBTAINING FULL JERRICANS INSIDE STATION AT PETER PAUL FORTRESS.

3. COMMENT: WE STILL HEAR A VARIETY OF EXPLANATIONS FOR THE SHORTAGE. DEPUTY CHIEF OF DIPLOMATIC AGENCY CHERNO RAISED QUESTION

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WITH ME IN CONVERSATION ON ANOTHER SUBJECT SEPTEMBER 29

BY ASKING APROPOS OF NOTHING, "YOU HAVE NOTICED OUR GASOLINE SHORTAGE?" HE THEN WENT ON TO ATTRIBUTE IT TO REQUIREMENTS OF THE HARVEST, AN EXPLANATION THAT MAKES SENSE ONLY IF KIRISHI REFINERY HAS HAD TO CHANGE PRODUCT MIX. ANOTHER SOVIET EXPLANATION CLAIMS THAT THERE IS SHORTAGE ONLY OF A-93 OCTANE USED BY ZHIGULI, NOT OF A-95 OR A-76 USED BY VOLGAS AND RESULTS FROM TOO RAPID AN EXPANSION OF ZHIGULI AUTO PARK. SINCE WE UNDERSTAND THAT LENINGRAD GETS QUOTA OF ONLY 10,000 ZHIGULIS PER YEAR, THIS SEEMS AN INADEQUATE EXPLANATION UNLESS PROBLEM IS NATIONAL AND NOT JUST IN LENINGRAD AREA.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW IF EMBASSY OR INR HAVE ANY INFORMATION INDICATING SHORTAGE IS MORE THAN LOCAL PHENOMENON OR THAT OFFERS MORE PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION THAN THOSE WE HAVE HEARD OR CAN CONJURE UP.
NEUBERT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: NATURAL GAS, SUPPLIES, PETROLEUM, CONSUMPTION, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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TAGS: ENRG, PINT, PINR, UR
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